

CALFED BAY DELTA PROGRAM

Delta Drinking Water Council November 3, 1999 Meeting Summary

Purpose of Meeting: To brief new Council members on CALFED's Drinking Water Improvement Strategy and to discuss Council member's expectations in terms of the role and support to the CALFED Bay Delta Program.

Attendance (see attached sign-in sheet)

Elaine Archibald, CUWA
Mike Boots, EPA
Brian Campbell, EBMUD
*Huali Chai, Bay Institute
Bill Crooks, City of Sacramento (Consultant)
Richard Denton, CCWD
Amy Fowler, SCVWD
Judy Heath, CALFED
Paul Hutton, CALFED
Marvin Jung, DWR (Consultant)
*Bruce Macler, EPA
*Phil Metzger, EPA (teleconference)
Marian Moe, CALFED
*David Okita, SCWA
Dan Otis, DWR
Dan Petersen, DWR
*Tim Quinn, MWDSC
Kerry Rae, USBR
Melinda Rho, LADWP
Steve Ritchie, CALFED
*Robert Shanks, Sacramento Regional CSD
Larry Smith, USGS
Lynda Smith, MWD
*Frances Spivy-Weber, Mono Lake Committee
Kim Taylor, USGS
*Walt Wadlow, SCVWD
Phil Wendt, DWR
Rick Woodard, CALFED
*Marguerite Young, Clean Water Action

* Delta Drinking Water Council Members

Welcome and Introductions

After introductions, Marian Moe, Deputy Attorney General, summarized the letter sent to the Delta Drinking Water Council (DDWC) from the Attorney General's Office (**attached**). The letter summarizes some of the provisions of the State Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and how the Act applies to meeting of the newly established Council. The letter also briefly summarizes some of the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) that govern the notice and conduct of the Council's meetings. The DDWC is a subcommittee of the Bay Delta Advisory Council and subject to rules of FACA. The BDAC expires in July 2001. The Policy Group has decided that BDAC will remain in existence during the interim governance period, at a minimum. CALFED management will determine how advisory groups will be set up past July 2001. Marian indicated that the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements say that no decisions shall occur outside of meetings but discussions are allowed outside of meetings.

Marian indicated that the rules do not restrict the DDWC members from participating in other groups (e.g., Veale/Byron Work Group) because conflict of interest should not arise. Steve Ritchie indicated that reviewing and ranking specific projects will not be a task of either of the BDAC subcommittees (DDWC and Ecosystem Roundtable) but that a process such as interim scientific panels will be used to make these types of recommendations. This process will insulate the BDAC subcommittees from any conflict of interest issue.

CALFED Structure

Steve Ritchie presented the CALFED interim governing structure and a decision flow diagram (**attached**). Primary advice comes from the Policy Group to the Federal Secretary of Interior and the California Governor. Funds derive from outside of CALFED and administered mainly through USBR and DWR. The CALFED activities are within the Program itself. BDAC is the prime FACA body and the DDWC is a subcommittee to provide advice on drinking water issues through BDAC to the Policy Group. The official path from BDAC is back through the Program.

Steve mentioned that the old Water Quality Program was reorganized and the water quality actions which primarily benefit ecosystem restoration are now under the Ecosystem Restoration Program. The water quality actions which primarily benefit drinking water and public health became part of the new Drinking Water Quality Program.

Steve indicated that there will be two main technical groups which can support the DDWC - the Drinking Water Constituents Work Group and the Drinking Water Operations Work Group. The Drinking Water Constituents Work Group provides a broad function as a stakeholder advice group to the Drinking Water Quality Program and acts as a technical arm of the Delta Drinking Water Council. This Work Group is presently providing technical input on a plan to implement the CALFED action "Assessment of Sources and Magnitudes of Loads of Drinking Water Constituents." The Drinking Water Operations Work Group assists the CALFED's Integrated Storage Investigation efforts and has an overall role of providing storage and conveyance technical assistance to the Drinking Water Quality Program and the DDWC. Both Work Groups will be interacting with the DDWC.

CALFED Drinking Water Improvement Strategy

Steve Ritchie presented a diagram depicting how the Drinking Water Improvement Strategy (also described in the revised Phase II Report) is envisioned to work (**attached**). Steve said that CALFED took what the urban agencies developed to achieve the goal for public health protection and modified it to include multiple ways to achieve the goal. These multiple ways include a set of actions and studies which address source control, conveyance, alternative sources of water, health effects, storage and operations, and treatment technology changes. Steve stressed the need to lay everything out on the table and evaluate progress on all of these fronts over time. It is under the scrutiny of the DDWC that all the studies and actions proceed together in order to make informed recommendations for decisions. Steve indicated that this Drinking Water Improvement Strategy does not preclude stakeholders pursuing options on their own. It is planned to have people come talk to the DDWC about developments - AWWARF and ICR representatives, for example.

Comments from some of the Council members indicated that there is a need to address the issue of costs of different strategies - who is benefitting and who should pay. Comments also covered the timing of decisions. It was pointed out that there are national FACA groups working on regulatory developments for the near future and it is expected that the outcome from these other groups may occur before 2003 and 2007 (the indicated milestone dates in the CALFED Drinking Water Improvement Strategy). Several Council members agreed that CALFED needs to take a long term view about what to do with a very critical limit on water resources given population growth. Their charge to fellow Council members was to urge a broad enough look at options (e.g., treatment technology for brackish waters).

Several comments centered around the CUWA recommended targets for bromide and total organic carbon. Some of the Council members mentioned that they want to begin the process without a frozen premise. Many Council members agreed that a primary function of the DDWC is to educate the public on decisions about tradeoffs and to identify conflicts including where multiple benefits are derived.

Issue Paper Proposal

Paul Hutton presented the concept of Issue Papers (**attached**). The purpose would be twofold - to summarize current level of understanding, and as vehicles for Council members to develop and make recommendations on studies and actions. It is proposed to develop papers on eight subjects. The issue papers would be phased in over time. The plan is to have one paper in advance of the next meeting and presentations on two of the topics. The concern was expressed that the time frame needs to be expedited and the Council members focus needs to be on recommendations and financing in preparation for Secretary of Interior Babbitt and Governor Davis midyear decisions. Preparation in advance of the next meeting was discussed. It was determined that pre-submittal of issue papers and the flexibility to talk with the issue paper authors, CALFED staff, and other Council members would allow better preparation for the next meeting. Some Council members expressed desire to go beyond the issue paper topics if the need occurs as well as having the ability to reject issue papers' viewpoint.

Drinking Water Quality Targets and Interim Milestones

Held over until next meeting.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting

December 16, 1999

12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m.

Resources Building, Room 1142